

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Information Booklet 2015/2016

## Mr. Quigley

*This document aims to provide as much information as possible to parents about the structure of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class and the methods I use to teach the class.*

### Morning time

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class will line up outside the front door from 9.10 to 9.20. However, due to the large number of children in the school this year and the large number of school bags that go along with the children, I have asked my class to bring their bags into the classroom the minute they arrive and take down their chair. After this they can go back out to the line.

### Need to chat?

If any parent needs to discuss something with me or has a question for me my door is always open. The best time to get me without an appointment is the morning time. However, it is advised that you make an appointment if you feel the meeting may be longer than ten minutes.

### School uniform

It is important to wear the school uniform at all times. Please refrain from wearing GAA tops and jerseys. The school tracksuit tops are notorious for vanishing! Please ensure that you put your child's name is on their top. At least one top goes missing a day or gets mixed up. If names are on the jackets it would make life easier for everyone.

### Lunches

We encourage parents to give their child a healthy lunch.

A treat on a Friday is a good idea and most people seem to stick to this policy.

Food dudes was a great success last year. Try to give at least one piece of fruit and veg again this year.

I will encourage the class to eat all their lunch as much as possible.

Juices and similar drinks are quite healthy but I would encourage all parents to give their child a bottle of water. The class can then re fill their bottle at the sink.

## **P.E**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class P.E is timetabled for Thursdays so please wear tracksuits and runners.

## **Communion**

The date for the Communion has been set. It will take place in Kilrush Church at 11am on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

Easter is unusually early this year and this is the reason for the earlier Communion date.

First Penance is provisionally set for Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. (This date may change)

Enrolment TBC

## **R.S.E**

We will be completing the RSE programme with all the classes this year.

We will cover a number of themes

Other people are special (family, friends etc)

Being friends

My family

Keeping safe

Coping with our feelings

The wonder of new life

When my body Needs Special Care

Growing and changing

Teachers take a very sensitive approach to these lessons and they are completed to a strict set of guidelines.

## **The Bus Bell**

The bus children leave at 2.50.

As the September newsletter stated the numbers in the school this year are causing congestion at home time and this could lead to an accident.

A number of children in my class will be able to leave with the bus people.

I would ask that parents or guardians come to the small gate at 2.50 to collect your child to ensure the safety of everybody leaving at this time.

## **Music**

Mrs Maher will teach music to the class from 1.30 to 2pm on Mondays.

Please ensure that your child has a tin whistle and music folder.

## **Testing**

The Drumcondra tests will take place in May for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

There is an English test, a Maths test and a spelling test.

I will also test the class at Halloween, Christmas and Easter.

The class will complete a spellings test every Friday morning.

This year, the spellings test will be completed by the children in the back of their Spellbound Book.

## **Tables**

Beginning in October the class will start learning their tables.

I will provide a sheet with the tables for each month.

At the end of each month the class will complete a small test.

I would encourage parents to practise the tables approx 3 times a week with their child.

## Reading

Reading is one of the most essential skills in school.

We complete a huge amount of reading in school.

Parents often ask me how much reading to do at home.

For homework it is only necessary to complete **ONE** page of the **school reader**. It is very important to take our time with the class reader. These books are designed to slowly build vocabulary throughout the year. The readers are attached to a workbook. If we go too fast with the readers we pass out the workbook and the children get lost.

However, the children can bring home as many of the **library books** as they want. They can read a page a night, ten pages a night or a full book. It's up to the individual.

## Bunclody Library

I would encourage parents to use Bunclody library. It is a fantastic resource. They are very helpful. If you suggest some topics or genres your child likes they will usually get you a great selection of books for you to choose from.

## Facebook

Please *like* the school Facebook page.

It is doing incredibly well and a great way to keep informed. It is regularly updated.

## Christmas Trip

Ms Byrne and I hope to organise a trip to a Christmas show in December.

More details to follow.

## Online resources

Many of the school books are online now and come with a selection of online resources.

I will try to send home as many suitable websites as possible throughout the year for those with internet access.

## Copies

The children have ONE writing copy, ONE Maths copy and ONE SESE (history,geog,science) copy.

All English and Irish goes into the writing copy.

## Homework

Homework is very important. The main aim is to reinforce the work from during the day. However, it can be tricky to give the correct amount for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class. I'm sure some parents think I give too much and some think I don't give enough. Basically , it is recommended from the Department of Education that 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class homework should only take about 20-30 minutes.

If you feel your child is completing the homework too quick and would like extra work please contact me.

## The Journal

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class write their homework in a journal. At the beginning of the year they find it tricky to take it down from the board but after a few weeks they will have it mastered. The homework is usually like this:

Sp- Unit 4 Box1

Rd – pg 18

SpB- Unit 4 Page 2 E+F

Eng- Sheet

Shadow- pg 14 Q1-5

Sp.... Spelling, SpB.... Spellbound, RD.... Reading, Eng.... English etc.

As I mentioned earlier the children will have tables that you can complete with them by asking them out loud 3/4 times a week or maybe write down ten on a piece of paper.  $3+4=$ ,  $5+2=$  etc.

I don't write down 'library book' for homework but this can be completed as much as possible.

## Spellbound

Spellbound is the spellings and phonics workbook that I have used for the last few years.

It is divided into units. Each unit has **two** pages.

Every Monday after Maths we will complete the first of these two pages in class. We will go through the spellings for the week and explain each section.

On Monday evening the children can complete the second page for homework.

During the first few weeks of the year this can be a little daunting for first class so if they want to complete section E and F for homework we can complete the rest in school.

## Maths

We are using the Busy at Maths book again this year and all the children are really enjoying it and working well. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class Maths is not too difficult but if there are any sections that you would like to talk to me about or my method of teaching it please call in some morning and I will go through it with you.

## Hurling 365

Hurling 365 will not start back this year until the boys and girls Rackard league football is finished.